

Table 2-4. continued

Environmental Resource	Existing Conditions	Agency Proposed Action	Single-Circuit Alternative			
Vegetation (See Sections 3.8 and 4.7)	Vegetation communities can be classified into four general categories: forest, shrublands, grass/forb, and agriculture.	Impacts would be moderate to high depending on cleared amounts, what function the vegetation serves, ability to revegetate, and types of maintenance activities. Disturbed areas typically become infested with non-native species.	Similar to the Agency Proposed Action.	Similar to the Agency Proposed Action east of Targhee Tap.	No to low impacts are expected if erosion control measures are used.	No impacts are expected.
Wildlife (See Sections 3.9 and 4.8)	The project area supports many birds including raptors, small mammals, and reptiles. This region is known for the variety and richness of North American large mammals.	Impacts vary from none to moderate. Construction noise can temporarily disturb most species. Bird collisions with transmission lines create a greater risk if mitigation measures are not used. Clearing can negatively affect some species associated with lodgepole pine and other forest species at the local level, while benefiting species that prefer open areas.	Similar to the Agency Proposed Action.			
Fish (See Sections 3.10 and 4.9)	Cutthroat trout, brook trout, mountain whitefish, Bonneville red-sides, speckled dace, Utah suckers, mottled sculpin, and bluehead suckers are present in the project area.	Low to moderate impacts could occur to stream turbidity depending on how successful contractors are at locating and placing erosion control measures and culverts. Impacts from maintenance activities are expected to be low.	Similar to the Agency Proposed Action.	Similar to the Agency Proposed Action east of Targhee Tap.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
Cultural Resources (See Sections 3.11 and 4.10)	Prehistoric and historic sites have been recorded in Idaho and Wyoming within one mile of the line. Most are lithic scatters, campsites, hunting blinds, habitation sites, trash, lime kiln and quarry, a ferry, bridge, roadhouse, and irrigation ditch.	The potential to find sites is low. A new line would be placed next to an existing line where disturbance has already occurred. Also, few sites have been recorded near the existing ROW.	Similar to the Agency Proposed Action.			
Socioeconomics (See Sections 3.12 and 4.11)	Population is largely rural and dependent to a large degree on tourism (services) and agriculture. Employment is in the services, manufacturing, and agriculture sectors. Idaho and Wyoming have sales, property, and use taxes. Idaho has an income tax.	Construction creates a positive impact on employment. Temporary relocation of workers in the area would not affect housing. Tax revenues on goods, property, etc. would be minor. Property values are not expected to be adversely impacted over the long-term. Landowners would be compensated with the fair market value for any land rights needed for the project.	Similar to the Agency Proposed Action.	Similar to the Agency Proposed Action east of Targhee Tap.	Similar to the Agency Proposed Action.	Could lead to voltage collapse. Important services would be interrupted possibly causing lost revenues. Safety and security is compromised.
Air Quality (See Sections 3.13 and 4.12)	Swan Valley and Teton Valley have no significant air quality problems although Jackson's local air quality can be affected during the winter months. There are protected airsheds in the project area.	Impacts from vehicle emissions and construction dust are expected to be none or low. Moderate impacts could occur if all slash material from cleared trees is burned on the ROW. Burning this material is extremely unlikely.	Similar to the Agency Proposed Action.			